

*“Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people ...”*

– Psalm 100:3 (NIV)

# BAPTIST Message

Newsjournal for Louisiana Baptists

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## Hard to imagine state ministries without GBO

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – The popular Christian group Mercy Me broke into the contemporary Christian music scene in 2002 with their inspirational single “I Can Only Imagine.”

As Louisiana Baptists approach a season of focused prayer and giving for state missions and ministries, it may be appropriate to ask, “Can you imagine what Louisiana would be like without the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering?”

The offering is the lifeblood of many ministries throughout the state including disaster relief, church planting and many more.

Without the state missions offering, 86 churches that benefitted from Louisiana Baptist Disaster Relief during the 2016 and 2017 floods likely would have received much less help.

Without the offering, Louisiana Baptists might not have

See GBO on 2

## 2,568 Brazilians added to the Kingdom

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer



Submitted photo

David Denton baptizes his son, J'Von, during a Louisiana Baptist-led mission trip to Brazil in mid-July. Denton is pastor of Highland Baptist Church in New Iberia. This was the first Brazil baptism of a U.S. team member since Wayne Jenkins began leading trips there.

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil – In the 33 years Wayne Jenkins has participated in mission trips to Brazil, 26 times while representing Louisiana Baptists, he has seen multitudes saved, including 2,568 this year, and 65 church buildings erected, counting the three added in July.

But one of his most special memories took place this year when his grandson, J'Von, was baptized – the first time a member of the U.S. team has done so in Brazil.

Already a believer before the summer mission trip, J'Von had not followed through with baptism. It was while experiencing God's presence during the mission trip that he felt compelled to take that next step of obedience.

His father, David Denton, pastor of Highland Baptist Church in New Iberia, baptized him in the team hotel pool.

### SINGULARLY SIGNIFICANT

“Two years ago I had two grandsons make professions of faith while on a mission trip and now to have J'Von follow through with a decision is an added blessing,” said Jenkins, director of evangelism and church growth for Louisiana Baptists. “God does a work in the lives of those who go on mission as well as

See BRAZILIANS on 5



Doug Collier photo

For the last 40 years, Evangelist Bill Britt has traveled the globe sharing the Gospel to thousands, discipling others while also establishing Bible universities and orphanages.

## Evangelist Bill Britt: 40 years of sowing Gospel seeds yield Kingdom harvests

BY WILL HALL  
Message Editor

### A TEAM EFFORT

ALEXANDRIA, La. (LBM) – Evangelist Bill Britt has been guided 40 years by the message of Luke 14:23 to “go out into highways and hedges” and share the Gospel, compelling him to go near and far to reach the lost with a message of hope.

The result has been multitudes of new believers who now enjoy saved souls from placing their trust in Jesus, but who also live saved lives because of the discipleship Britt ensures through such follow up activities as the seminary training of pastors to lead the new flocks that result.

Britt is not alone in his ministry and he credits his wife, Wendy, for taking on critical out-front and behind-the-scenes roles that have helped Compel Outreach International change hearts with the Gospel, and, to alter the human condition of many through the aid of compassion ministries.

“She is the voice and face of COI with our sponsors for 200 orphans, and she keeps up with the orphans – how they are doing physically, and with their school,” Britt said. “She’s the point woman for taking care of their

See BRITT on 6



# Jay Johnston to be nominated for LBC first vice president

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

COVINGTON – Jay Johnston will be nominated for the office of first vice president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention during the 2017 LBC Annual Meeting.

Tom Harrison, executive pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, plans to nominate Johnston for the position.

Johnston, who is associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington, is the only announced candidate for the office.

“He has been a convention leader who has effectively served Louisiana Baptists and Southern Baptists,” Harrison said in an e-mail to the Baptist Message. “He is a man of prayer, recently serving as chairman of the Louisiana Governor Prayer Breakfast and as the volunteer state coordinator for the National Day of Prayer.”

“Jay is a man of integrity, a leader, caring minister, master of resources and an outstanding Christian man,” Harrison wrote.

Johnston said, if elected, he would work with LBC leaders to advance Louisiana Baptists’ campaign to “pray

for every home and share Christ with every person” in the state.

“I am grateful for the vision of current LBC leaders related to the Harvest emphasis,” Johnston said. “The emphasis reveals the heart our leaders have for people without Jesus Christ.”

“The time is now for those who know Jesus to share the Good News, disciple and multiply so more will come to know Christ,” he continued. “We have been commanded to love God and others and I believe we can carry out this command but carrying out the Great Commission.”

Since Johnston became associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington in January 2009, average Sunday school attendance has increased from 1,167 to 1,363, according to Annual Church Profile statistics. The number of people enrolled in discipleship training also has risen, 610 to 1,347.

The church averages 1,955 in worship attendance each Sunday (an increase of 240 during his tenure) and from 2009 to 2016, the church baptized 983 people, reaching at least 100 baptisms annually.

According to ACP data, last year Johnston’s church



Jay Johnston

contributed 5.2 percent of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists’ primary channel of giving by which local churches support cooperative ministries in the state, across the nation and globally.

The church’s financial records show the congregation gave another 15 percent of its funds directly to mission causes such as the New Orleans Mission, Samaritan’s Center in Mandeville, Northshore Crisis Pregnancy Center, Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home, Louisiana College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Disaster Relief, international missions and World Changers.

Johnston’s bio show he is heavily involved with various prayer ministries both at First Baptist Church in Covington and throughout the state; and documents his lifelong commitment to serving Christ:

-- He provides leadership to his church’s prayer and recovery ministry, helping other churches launch such ministries as well.

-- Away from his congregation, Johnston serves as volunteer state coordinator for the National Day of Prayer and is a past chairman of the Louisiana Governor’s Annual Prayer Breakfast.

-- A native of New Orleans, Johnston earned a bachelor’s degree from Louisiana College in Pineville, the Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va.

-- Baptized when he was seven at First Baptist Church in Kenner, he was called to full-time Gospel ministry, and subsequently licensed by Parkview Baptist Church in Alexandria, while a student at Louisiana College. Before coming to First Baptist Church in Covington, Johnston was on staff at LifeWay Christian Resources as director of evangelism and discipleship. He also has served on staff at churches in Florida, Louisiana and Tennessee and authored two books as well as more than 100 articles.

Johnston and his wife, Jerilyn, have two sons, Grady and Jody, and two grandsons.

## GBO from page one

planted 200 churches since 2010 and would not have witnessed 11,000 new commitments to Christ, including 1,329 first-time decisions and 384 baptisms last year alone.

Without the offering, church plants might not have received \$330,000 last year in funding.

Without the offering, Suburban Baptist Church in New Orleans might not have re-opened as soon as it did with the help of mission builders, six months after an EF-3 tornado devastated its facilities.

Without the offering, as many as 55 compassion ministry centers might not have received funding to help in the distribution of 2 million pounds of food for the “least of these.”

Without the offering, 960 children and adults might not have had the opportunity to attend Missions Jamboree (M-JAM) in 2016, resulting in 16

professions of faith.

And without the offering, 59 students and one African-American church planter would not have received Woman’s Mission Union Scholarships to attend Louisiana College or a Southern Baptist seminary.

Without question, it’s not hard to imagine the spiritual deficit that might exist without the impact of the state missions offering.

However, the silver lining is that year after year, Louisiana Baptists sacrificially give to support missions and ministries throughout the state and have set a goal of \$1.7 million for 2017.

“The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering is the only offering specifically for missions and ministries in Louisiana,” said David Hankins, Executive Director of Louisiana Baptists. “And what’s amazing is all of this

See GBO on 8

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# Enjoy life with your true love

BY RUSSELL MEEK

Louisiana College

PINEVILLE (LBM) – Ecclesiastes, sometimes thought to be the “black sheep” book of the Bible because of its several seeming unorthodox statements and sometimes doleful tone, is in fact a frank discussion of the issues that we all face – death and injustice.

Indeed, the author invokes the image of Abel (whose name is the same word commonly translated as “vanity,” “meaningless,” and “futility” in most English translations) in his presentation of several situations that do not turn out, perhaps, as we might think they ought.

Such “inconsistencies” with our way of thinking include “the race is not to the swift, or the battle to the strong, or bread to the wise, or riches to the discerning, or favor to the skillful . . .” (Eccl. 9:11, CSB).

Likewise, blunt statements such as Ecclesiastes 3:19-20 tend to offend our senses: “[T]he fate of the children of Adam and the fate of animals is the same. As one dies, so dies the other; they all have the same breath . . . all come from the dust, and all return to the dust.”

Finally, the lack of fairness in some of the wisdom that is offered -- “there are righteous

people who get what the actions of the wicked deserve, and there are wicked people who get what the actions of the righteous deserve” (8:14) – might appear outright insulting.

In each of these examples, life does not work out as it seems it should, eliciting thoughts of Abel, who is the quintessential example of one whose life did not work out as expected: The righteous Abel was martyred, while the wicked Cain went out to live at least long enough to found a city.

So, what does Ecclesiastes tell us to do in light of all this injustice and difficulty in life?

It’s pretty incredible, really.

Ultimately, this book of wisdom implores readers to enjoy the gifts of life that God allows us to enjoy – things like a spouse, food, and spiritual purpose, which are the very gifts Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden before sin and death entered our world.

However, the text also cautions that we must enjoy God’s gifts within God’s boundaries: “When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity. For God will bring every act to judgment, including every

hidden thing, whether good or evil” (12:13–14).

This brings us to the importance of sexual purity in our lives.

The desire for sexual intimacy is a core part of what it means to be human: It is how we fulfill God’s command to “be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth” (Gen. 1:28); and, it produces a strong bond between a man and a woman – the two “become one flesh” (2:24).

Truly, sexual intimacy is one of God’s good gifts to humans.

But in a world riddled with sin and death, it’s also one of the primary ways the enemy leads us astray, as 1 John 2:16 warns. Indeed, Paul forcefully commands the Corinthians (and indeed us) to “Flee sexual immorality!” (1 Cor. 6:18).

This command, coupled with Ecclesiastes’ reminder that “God will bring every act to judgment,” should cause us to take every effort to run as far away and as quickly as possible from any distortion of God’s intended structure of sexual intimacy within the bounds of marriage.

Moreover, and wonderfully so, Ecclesiastes adjures us to “live life with the woman you love all the days of your fleeting life” (Eccles. 9:9). That is, enjoy God’s gift of sexual intimacy, but enjoy it only within the relationship of one man and one woman united in marriage for life.



Ecclesiastes reminds us that God has given us good gifts to enjoy as one important way to deal with the struggles and difficulties of life.

However, it also restates a key biblical principle -- that all God’s gifts, even sexual intimacy, are meant to be enjoyed within God’s boundaries.

Such enjoyment in the appropriate context is one of the most effective ways to live a

sexually pure life.

**Russell L. Meek, Ph.D., is professor of Old Testament and Hebrew with Louisiana College. His column is part of a series of commentaries provided by Louisiana College relating to the Southern Baptist Convention’s calendar of Special Emphasis Sundays, which in August places special emphasis on sexual purity.**

## Fourteen say ‘yes’ to Jesus on final day of Kids camp

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL

Message Staff Writer

WOODWORTH – Fourteen students said yes to Jesus during the final day of the last Kids Camp.

Overall 40 campers made professions throughout all three camps which saw a total of 997 camp participants.

“Jesus does for us what we can’t do for ourselves,” camp pastor Corey Olivier told the second through sixth graders. He said to say “yes” to Jesus who was the only person able to rescue them from their sin.

“We’ve been teaching them, going through some of

See KIDS on 4

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# The superb right and tragic wrong of the SBC Alt-Right resolution

BY PAIGE PATTERSON  
President  
Southwestern Baptist

Never is it wrong to state a firm case for racial justice in America. If racism continues to be problematic the world over; at least not in America, and certainly not in the SBC, should we ever tolerate the raising of the ugly head of injustice or the unkindness that accompanies any racial intolerance.

God is the Creator of all men, and He said that all that He created was “very good.” We, as Baptists, are entitled to no other view. The denunciation of the racism of the “alt-right” is most certainly in order.

As Southern Baptists were voting their approval of the resolution against the alt-right, Congressman Steve Scalise was in the gun sight of a rabid member of what might be fairly

styled “the alt-left.” And make no mistake, that angry man did not mean to wound but rather was determined to kill – all the Republicans that he could. That is why the resolution against the “alt-right” was superbly right and tragically wrong at the same time.

## CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES FREE SPEECH

The free speech guaranteed by our Constitution has been abrogated on numerous college and university campuses.

The president of the United States has been threatened with assassination as public entertainers have resorted to the coarsest of language to badger those, like the president, with whom they disagree.

All the while, innocent infants in the “safety” of their mothers’ wombs continue to be slaughtered under the moniker

of “women’s health.” And an astonishing percent of these precious little ones are from the African American community!

The point is that while the “alt-right” is guilty of much violence, they are hardly alone.

In fact, many reasonable assessments of the circumstances in America suggest that what has played itself out in the last several months is an argument that the “alt-left” is as guilty as anyone.

Baptists, as those who refrained from violence, have always differed with their “cousins in the faith” from most other communions.

## BAPTISTS INSIST ON FREE SPEECH

Baptists have insisted on freedom of speech, open discussion, kindness and graciousness as something owed to all in the light of God’s extension of grace to us.

Our Anabaptist forefathers suffered gallantly for Christ and made no effort to confront the violence of both Catholics and Protestants. Instead they followed the instructions of Peter, who said,

*For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow in His steps: “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore*



*our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 2:21-24).*

Southern Baptists must walk a precarious tightrope, which will make the feats of the famous Wallendas seem insignificant in comparison. Every form of human violence must be opposed on the right, on the left, or in the center.

Even when a “just war” must be waged, as Augustine outlined, Baptists must rue the violent death of every person, do what they can to limit and relieve any suffering, and constantly seek the Spirit of God to purge their own hearts of all

but forgiveness and mercy.

In fact, emphasizing this principle is how we advance the Kingdom of Christ.

Following the teachings of our Lord, appropriate attitudes and behaviors must ensue.

And when we speak against something, as we sometimes must, we do have to be fair. God give us the grace to walk carefully this tightrope.

**Paige Patterson is president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1998 and 1999 and played a major role in the Conservative Resurgence of the SBC.**

## Kids from page 3

the key passages of the old testament, showing how God invites them to be a part of some pretty amazing things,” Olivier said. “It’s a great camp for us to share the gospel and disciple kids. It’s a joy to be a part of all that’s going on.”

Olivier’s message came during the third and final Kids Camp of 2017 at Tall Timbers

Baptist Conference Center, which began July 30 and concluded Aug. 2.

More than 330 children and adults leaders took part in worship sessions, Bible studies, archery, paddle boat rides, bazooka ball and basketball at the final of three camps.

The theme was Let’s Go to Camp, based on various passages from the Exodus story, which many campers took to heart.

For Hope Hendrixson, a member of Gateway Baptist Church in Ball, meeting new friends and learning about kindness were the highlights of camp.

“I learned Moses was a kind guy,” Hendrixson said. “Sometimes it’s hard to be kind but I learned we must do that to follow God in the way He wants.”

Aliyah Harnan, a member of Living Word Church in Thibodeaux, loved the opportunity to swim and participate in the worship sessions.

“It’s really fun to meet friends and learn about God,” she said. “When I go back to my school, I will tell others about what I learned here and that Jesus loves them.”

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## Brazilian from page one

those we go to minister to.”

Denton said J’Von had been exposed numerous times to the Gospel but finally grasped the true meaning of it during Vacation Bible School at Highland Baptist Church in June.

“We had asked him before about making his decision public but wanted him to take that step when he was ready,” Denton said. “During the week of our ministry in Brazil we asked him again about making a public profession of faith and he responded by saying ‘I think I would like to be baptized here, in Brazil.’ It was wonderful to be able to experience this with family and friends around. I know it was a memorable moment for him.”

### MULTIPLE BLESSINGS

Jenkins, Denton and his son were among 87 men and women who were on mission in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, as part of a Louisiana Baptist-led evangelism outreach effort. By the end of the group’s mission trip in mid-July, 2,568 people had proclaimed Christ as Lord and Savior.

The U.S. group joined Brazilian Baptists to construct three churches, operate medical and eye clinics, hold Vacation Bible Schools, conduct street evangelism, run sports clinics, cook for business leaders and give drama presentations in schools and outdoor venues. The majority of the U.S. team were from Louisiana, though others hailed from Alabama, North Carolina, Texas and Utah.

Whatever the need – eye-glasses, volunteers, or money to purchase construction supplies -- Jenkins said God was generous to supply.

“God always provides everything and everybody you need to do all He has called you to do,” Jenkins said. “When it comes to people and resources, He will provide what you need.

“We began praying He would provide the people,” he continued. “When we were at 87, I thought we didn’t have enough and financially we were

a little short in some areas. But God came through and provided all we needed to share the Gospel.”

### SALVATION TESTIMONIES

Joey Zagar was part of a construction team that witnessed 18 people accept Christ.

His first mission trip to the country, Zagar helped build a church alongside his combined team of Americans and Brazilians, starting work at 6:30 in the morning and ending most days at 7:30 p.m.

At the start of the project, the team heard some in the community express doubt that a church could be built in a week. When the finishing touches were completed by the sixth day, these neighbors were completely stunned.

“I saw the building’s importance as the people in the community came together to worship,” said Zagar, a member of First Baptist Church in New Iberia, who witnessed Brazilians accept Christ in the new facility. “It was then I felt the Spirit moving and I understood why He had told me to go.”

“God’s Word was spread throughout the community,” he said. “I saw many people working long hours and through it we saw evangelism, fellowship, ministry, discipleship and worship taking place in a community that was receptive and loving.

“It showed me Philippians 4:13 in action -- ‘I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me’ -- because there is no way we could have accomplished what we did without God’s power and might.”

Although the trip was Zagar’s first time in Brazil, for others like Lisa Breau it was a return visit to the country. In fact, for her it was the 17th time to do missions there.

Breau served on the cooking team, providing meals for church members, U.S. volunteers and even the hotel staff where the team stayed, and a number of them accepted Christ.

Breau estimates they



Submitted photo

A member of the Louisiana Baptist team has a Gospel conversation with a Brazilian. By the end of the mid-July trip to Brazil, the team saw 2,568 people accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

fed about 180 people at three churches as well as 100 hotel personnel.

“At the hotel, several of the staff spoke to us on the side after we cooked for them and asked for prayers on different things they were dealing with,” said Breau, a member of First Baptist Church in Lafayette. “When you cook for people, it breaks down barriers and walls and shows them you are sacrificing your time with something precious to you.

“You can then share that as good as this food is, you are going to be hungry again tomorrow,” she said. “We explained that the Bread of Life will leave them full and I think that message really connected with people.”

Next year, Jenkins says they will need at least 130 people willing to work in the difficult area of Minas Gerias, south of Belo Horizonte.

The state is the size of Texas with multitudes of cities without

a Baptist or evangelical work, he said, adding that the area has fewer believers per capita than Saudi Arabia. While the team will be doing some of the same ministries as this year, additional ministry and evangelism opportunities will be added in order to share the Gospel in this unreached area.

**For information about joining the team next year, please contact Wayne Jenkins via email, [wayne.jenkins@lbc.org](mailto:wayne.jenkins@lbc.org).**

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## Britt from page one

needs – raising money for school supplies, collecting clothing and more.

“These are important relationships and functions,” he said, adding, “and she has to put up with me.”

Importantly, Britt praises God for His guidance and favor.

“Counting my international work, we are probably on the road 45

weeks out of the year. We’ve seen the Holy Spirit move here in the state of Louisiana and we’ve seen many people saved and churches revived overseas,” Britt said. “We’re excited about all the doors God’s opened for us.

### AS YOU GO

Britt’s ministry spans North America, Asia and Africa, with established works across the globe, but he is attentive to the call of the Holy Spirit to establish new harvest fields.

“This year we held our first crusade in Ethiopia,” Britt shared. “We flew into Addis Ababa which is the capital city and drove about

seven hours down into the countryside. It was the first time many of the people in that village had seen Americans, and the first time they had had a crusade.

“It was a Friday, Saturday and Sunday crusade, and when we arrived Thursday evening, there were probably 2,000 to 3,000 people gathered to greet us,” he continued.

“Because of the large number of people, they asked us to go straight to the crusade ground and have prayer with them and say a word about the crusade.”

Britt explained that local leaders had set up morning and evening services and that Pastor Gary Hanberry of First Baptist Church in Larose, Louisiana, and he divided up the workload to preach to 5,000 or 6,000 people at each session.

“The people would come early in the morning, and they would stay all day, and they would sit down in the hot sun with an umbrella on the ground,” Britt exclaimed. “Of course, we would have a break and come back in the



Wendy and Bill Britt form a dynamic team in leading the many ministries of Compel Outreach International.

afternoon, and they would be there again.

“When the decisions were recorded, we learned 4,000 or so individuals had given their lives to the Lord,” he added.

“So, it was a powerful time and people were touched of the Lord in many ways.”

Britt also detailed how pastors and their congregations have been going “from house to house and village to village” visiting with all the new believers to invite them to their churches and to enroll them in discipleship studies and to be baptized.

“I think it has been a very successful follow-up,” Britt told the *Baptist Message*.

### ASIA

Compel has a presence in Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, conducting mass evangelism, hosting leadership training, planting churches and running schools, in all three combined, but India serves as its regional headquarters of sorts for Asia.

The ministry operates Compel Outreach Bible University in Tamil Nadu, India, hosting about 50 students each semester and having awarded degrees to almost 500 graduates since 2001.

“Initially, we were meeting in a church,” Britt said. “But so many students began coming that it was impossible to function properly there – with all the needs for housing, feeding, a library, educational spaces, and so on. So we were able to find some property and we began to pray that



Brian Blackwell photo

Charles (left) was one of the very first graduates of the Compel Bible University in India in 2003, and is still faithfully serving the Lord in ministry.

the Lord would provide the money to begin construction.

“Now, we have about eight different buildings there, including men’s and women’s dorms, a dining hall, a kitchen, a library and classrooms and the chapel is under construction,” he said. “We even have an area where pastors can come in who want to take courses, and they can live there for just a short period of time, maybe even just come four or five days a week and go back to their churches.”

Britt said that already students have planted four churches among 13 nearby villages with virtually no Gos-

pel witness, “with the goal of having a dozen churches planted in the area.”

“There are feeding programs for the children, who are taught the Bible while they eat. We’re drilling water wells so that people can have clean water, and when they come get the water we share about the Living Water. We have an orphanage with 25 boys, and we’ve been doing that for probably 17 years now. We send our teams out all over India a couple of times a year, and they show the Jesus film, they preach, they do village-to-village evangelism,” Britt reported. “So we have a lot going on in India.

### AFRICA

Compel is active in Africa, taking the Gospel across the continent, including into the countries of Burundi, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. However, Kenya serves as its headquarters for this part of the world, and it is “our primary focus,” Britt said, noting in particular the orphanage the ministry began.

“Including the children of the house parents, there are 208 children we feed, clothe and educate, in addition to providing a home,” he said. “And we take care of all of their medical needs. It’s a great opportunity to reach children, and the need is great.

“Nearly all the children in that orphanage are what I call

See BRITT on 7

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Compel Centre is a refuge of protection and love for orphans in Africa

## Britt from page 6

double orphans -- their mom and dad are both deceased, having died from malaria, AIDS, or maybe in tribal warfare," he detailed. "Many of these children are out in the jungle foraging for food or they're in the cities looking through trashcans or living on the streets.

"So, when they come to us, they're diseased, they're malnourished. A year later," Britt contrasted, "you can't tell it's the same child because they're getting good, balanced meals, they have a bed to sleep in, they have people to love on them and pray for them."

Britt also emphasized the spiritual sustenance provided at the orphanage, mentioning the church services hosted there every Sunday, with up to 100 villagers also attending. When he had a recent privilege to preach there, 16 individuals surrendered to full-time vocational ministry he said, "And 12 of them were our orphans."

So far, Compel has helped plant 59 churches in Kenya, Britt said, working with pastors to provide conferences and other training opportunities as well as study materials.

### MEXICO

Britt's telephone interview with the Baptist Message took place while he was in Mexico to conduct a youth camp.

"I've been doing this camp at least a dozen years," he said, "and we come twice a year.

"We do a conference in February, and then we do the youth camp in July every year, and then we've been supporting the ministry of MITC, Mexican-Indian Training Center, since about 1995. We've been helping support some of the pastors and teachers here, so we've been all over Mexico preaching the Gospel and sharing

the Good News of Jesus.

### USA

Britt has been just as prolific in his work within the United States, conducting more than 1,000 evangelistic events, including evangelistic crusades in Louisiana.

Just this year, Britt led a multi-church outreach with the North Central Baptist Association -- preceded by nearly a year of prayer gatherings -- that drew crowds of more than 700 each of four nights and witnessed 25 people make first-time professions of faith in Jesus as Lord, 35 individuals repent to restore their relationship with Christ, and 2 persons commit their lives to vocational ministry.

In 2016, Britt held a city-wide crusade in Morehouse -- after eight months of prayer, planning, and preparation -- at the open-air arena just outside Bastrop. More than 4,600 people attended the four mid-winter evening services, with 50 persons repenting to turn to Christ, 50 others repenting to return to Christ and 10 individuals surrendering their lives to full-time ministry.

But a 2015 crusade in Crowville holds a special place in Britt's heart.

"We had a meeting in the Crockett Point Baptist Church where 197 people came to the Lord, and Joe Senn, who is now with the Lord was the pastor then, and when I got there, Joe told me that they had been praying and fasting for three months," Britt recounted.

"On Sunday morning, it was evident that the Holy Spirit was already at work. Typically, about 250 people attended worship each Sunday back then, and about 400 were present that morning," Britt recalled. "In fact,

throughout the week about 400 to 500 people attended each service of the crusade, such that people were sitting out in the lobby. It rained most of the week, but folks really didn't care.

"One of the powerful things that happened that week was the high school principal called the pastor and said we're canceling the annual sports banquet because the young people said they're not going to miss the revival to come to the banquet," Britt said reverently, "and to me, that's real revival."

### HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Britt said he was excited about the number of pastors he is meeting who really have a heart for evangelism and soul winning.

"They're praying and we're seeing people saved and baptized and, you know, now where I am in my ministry," he said.

He is especially encouraged "to be friends with young guys that have a passion of soul winning. That's been a very, very big encouragement to me to see that there are some young men on the scene that are carrying

the torch."

But, Britt also shared a word of caution, saying "time is short" and that every believer needs to be engaged in sharing the Gospel.

"The Lord is coming," Britt offered as a reminder. "We've been hearing that all our lives, but we're closer now than we've ever been, obviously.

"My point is that you can't hire a pastor and a staff to win your community to Christ,"

he underscored. "It's going to take everybody in the church -- Sunday School teachers, deacons, young people, children, everybody being mobilized to get out in their communities and win souls.

"We've gotten away from the basics for reaching our communities -- some very simple methods Jesus modeled that

for us," Britt said. "He went from town to town preaching the Word, preaching about the Kingdom of God. He poured his

life into these disciples. They prayed -- He went from one prayer meeting to the next; and, he shared the Good News.

"If we want to reach the world for Christ," he continued, "our communities for the Lord, we just need to get back to the basics of prayer, soul winning, preaching, teaching, sharing the love of God with people.

"The bottom line is," Britt said in concluding. "We can have the most innovative, creative programs in the world, but if we're not out there sharing the Gospel, I don't believe the hand of God -- the power of God -- is going to be on any person or any church. That's the key."



Britt has conducted more than 1,000 evangelistic events in the United States, including numerous crusades and revivals in Louisiana.

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# Louisiana Baptist Foundation reports good news for investments

By JERRY LOVE

Director of Planned Giving

ALEXANDRIA (LBM) – News of well-performing portfolios, updates on investments, progress on its new accounting software and the approval of its annual audit highlighted the second quarterly meeting of the Louisiana Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees meeting July 25.

## INVESTMENT UPDATES

E.L. Paulk, trustee from Deville, chaired the morning meeting of the Investment Committee.

In a conference call to trustees, Lee Morris, Investment Consultant with Graystone, reviewed the investment holdings and performance for the first half of 2017 in context of the U.S. Domestic Equities markets, which are positive for the year.

Morris said fixed income portfolios remain relatively sluggish, as anticipated, explaining that the Federal Reserve is expected to raise rates once more by year end. He said active management was gaining traction versus passive management through the first half of 2017, with more managers “picking stocks” rather than essentially

“indexing funds” to the markets.

He also discussed alternative allocations, such as convertible securities and preferred stock, are performing well and adding value to the portfolio at both the performance and diversification level. Pointing to Morgan Stanley’s Global Investment Committee’s expectation of positive performance from developed equity markets, both domestic and worldwide, he said the emerging market equity exposure should also be productive as well in the near future.

In view of the economy and the performance of the equity markets, Morris recommended increasing the allocation to Small/Mid Cap companies in the domestic equity portfolio and to increase the allocation to emerging markets. These recommendations were within the

policy guidelines and required no board action.

Highlighting that the LBF portfolios have performed well through the first half of the year, Morris noted all components of the portfolio are in compliance with the Board’s investment policies.

Investment returns for the major components of the LBF portfolio year-to-date 2017 as of June 30 were:

- Short Term Fund: 0.78 percent annualized yield
- Group Investment Fund, comprised of various market sectors: 5.96 percent total return.
- Diversified Income Fund, conservative income-oriented fund: 1.97 percent total return.

Chuck Murray, CPA and Controller for the Foundation, reported a decrease in assets under management due to sev-

eral larger Baptist entities and churches making withdrawals from Short Term Fund accounts to meet increased financial demands for the summer or for ongoing construction projects. He shared that assets under management as of June 30, 2017, totaled \$164,337,108.

## OPERATIONS REPORT

Later in the morning, West Monroe’s Waymond Warren conducted the Operating Committee meeting and called on Murray to present the operating budget for the first half of 2017.

Although income from the Cooperative Program was down by approximately 4 percent, income from the Foundation’s own investments combined with cost recovery income helped to offset the decline, Murray

said. Also, he said there were considerable savings due to reduced expenses for accounting software than budgeted which allowed for a year-to-date net operating surplus.

Executive Director Wayne Taylor and Jerry Love, planned giving director, reported about efforts to engage individuals in estate stewardship, noting they had attended eight events with several more on the schedule.

Love also said several gifts were in progress that will benefit a variety of Baptist ministries, churches and agencies.

Taylor also updated the committee on the accounting software transition progress.

He said the first phase has been completed and the Foundation’s old accounting system has moved to a new platform where

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## GB0 from page 2

is accomplished through the gifts of approximately two-thirds of our churches,” Hankins continued. “Imagine what could be accomplished in Louisiana for Kingdom purposes if all 1600 of our churches would share the story of what God is doing and participate in the offering.”

John Hebert, state missions and ministry director for Louisiana Baptists, said the giving by Louisiana Baptists help the countless ministries benefitting from the offering further grow God’s Kingdom.

“We would not be celebrating these numbers had Louisiana churches not stepped up and given so generously to the offering,” Hebert said. “While we get our biggest bang for the buck in church planting, the offering is vital in helping to fund Disaster Relief, our second biggest need. Gibbie [state director of Disaster Relief in Louisiana] is totally dependent on this offering for his entire budget.”

Last year, more than 1,200 Louisiana volunteers have

answered the call and another 600 were trained. In addition to the man power, Disaster Relief provided thousands of gallons of the fungicide Shockwave for mold remediation, additional supplies, hot meals, as well as handing out Bibles, presenting the Gospel numerous times and seeing 207 individuals give their lives to Christ.

As is the case with the recent weather pattern, Hebert said giving is vital to helping Louisiana Baptists continue to respond when needed.

“As you well know it has been a very active two years for Louisiana with the floods, storms and tornadoes,” Hebert said. “When a disaster hits there is a real cost connected and only through this offering are the basic needs met. I am proud to say our DR response has been second to none.”

The offering is named after Georgia Barnette, the first elected and paid WMU executive director/treasurer in the state.

She would travel by boat, pirogue, horse and buggy and train from her home in New Orleans to other areas of Louisiana to visit state missionaries who were planting churches.

Church planting, compassion ministries, Woman’s Missionary Union Scholarships to Louisiana College, Disaster Relief operations, mission projects, radio outreach and Here for You, Louisiana Baptists new media evangelism strategy, are among the wide array of missions and ministries supported through the offering.

The theme for 2017 week is Why Wait “...for they are ready” based on John 4:35. Sept. 10-17 has been set aside as the Week of Prayer for state missions and ministries.

“It’s easy for us to read the words of Jesus and miss the promise,” Hankins noted. “He says ‘they are ready.’ That’s a fact, a reality, a promise. I like what Brandon Langley, one of our church planters in St Rose said, ‘It’s as if the people are waiting on us.’”

Resources, including videos, demonstrating the scope and impact of the Georgia Barnette Offering have been mailed to churches across the state. Additional resources are available online at [www.GeorgiaBarnette.org](http://www.GeorgiaBarnette.org).

Because of the generous giving, Louisiana Baptists are able to continue the vision of Georgia Barnette more than 100 years after she first led women to begin taking up an offering for state missionaries in 1907. The offering was named after her in 1937.

“Mission education, compassion ministry, mission builders, and camps not only impact people’s everyday lives but their eternal lives as well,” Hebert said. “When churches give, it is an affirmation they want to see our work continue.”

“The Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering is the most important mission offering given for the ongoing work of missions in Louisiana,” he continued. “I can’t imagine what it would be like without the Georgia Barnette Offering.”



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# LBC, TBC presidents team up to finish Suburban Church restoration

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS – Sitting together in class at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary nearly four years ago, Gevan Spinney, Steve Freeman and Jeffrey Friend did not imagine the many ways their paths would cross in the future.

But in July, Spinney and Freeman, now presidents of their respective state conventions, came together to the aid of Friend, a state convention executive board member, and put the finishing touches on the reconstruction of his church facilities that were heavily damaged by a tornado in February.

UNITED IN LOVE

Spinney, pastor of First Haughton, is president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, and Freeman, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, in Springfield, Tenn. is president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Meanwhile, Friend, pastor of Suburban Baptist Church in New Orleans is the chair of the missions support committee for the LBC Executive Board.

Members of the three churches spent the final two weeks in July performing a flurry of work to finish the flooring, ceiling, painting and plumbing in the worship center, so the NOLA congregation could finally hold services there for the first time since the natural disaster hit their campus.

“We had no idea God would put all three of us together again for a situation like this,” Spinney said. “It was pretty exciting and awesome that Steve and I could help out a friend in need.”

“It’s amazing to see the organizations that have come together to finish this up,” he continued. “Being here to witness how well it’s come together so quickly has been nothing short of miraculous.”

TOGETHER IN PRAISE

The team from First Haughton was unable to stay for the celebration and worship service July 31. However, members from Grace



Brian Blackwell photo

Steve Freeman (left) and Gevan Spinney load boxes of material inside the worship center of Suburban Baptist Church in New Orleans. Freeman is president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Spinney is president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Baptist Church were among about 120 church members and community friends who gathered that morning for a time of thanksgiving and praise for God’s provision at Suburban Baptist Church.

Standing on the platform in the rebuilt worship center -- that only five months ago was filled with debris -- Friend recalled the many blessings and miracles of God since the catastrophe.

“I remember when I was sitting here, you couldn’t

see anything because walls and windows were everywhere,” Friend said during his message. “The Lord told me to maximize what I’ve already given you. It’s just a blessing that we can see what I saw.”

A CALLING, NOT A RESPONSE

Freeman said responding to such disasters is nothing new for his church. Since 2010, a large group of its members have helped

rebuild areas affected by tornadoes and flooding.

“We believe this is our calling,” Freeman said. “This is what God enabled us to do. God has put together so many people in our church who are skilled with what’s needed to respond to situations such as this and it’s amazing how we use it for His glory.”

MORE THAN TEAMWORK

More than 100 churches

from across the United States have responded in the months following the tornado, in a cooperative effort to restore the facilities.

In the final week alone, teams from Metairie Baptist Church, Level Ground Church in New Orleans, First Baptist Church in Lockport and Vintage Church in New Orleans provided food and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary provided housing for the volunteer workers.

Meanwhile, First Baptist Church in Rayville donated funds.

Friend said he expected it would be October or November before work was complete on the worship center.

But, like when God helped the church bounce back from damage it received during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Lord moved powerfully through another difficult situation, he said.

“The journey has been more exciting than the destination,” Friend beamed. “Since the tornado I’ve met so many wonderful people that I wouldn’t have had it not been for the storm.

“So, my list of friends increased significantly,” he added. “These people have shown themselves to be my ‘good neighbors,’ helping me get back into my building more quickly than I could ever have imagined.”

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** in Crowville, LA is seeking a **full-time pastor**. Résumés and CDs or DVDs, if available, should be mailed to: First Baptist Church Crowville, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 38, Crowville, LA 71230. Résumés only may be emailed to: Pastor Search Committee, fbccrowville3@bellsouth.net.

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FIRST BAPTIST ZACHARY IS SEEKING A **SENIOR PASTOR**  
First Baptist Church, Zachary, LA is accepting résumés for the position of Senior Pastor. Résumés should be sent to the Pastor Search Committee at [pastorsearch@fbcz.org](mailto:pastorsearch@fbcz.org) by August 28, 2017.

**BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR**  
Bethany Baptist Church of Baywood, LA is seeking a bi-vocational Pastor.  
Send resume or inquiries to [bethanybaywood@outlook.com](mailto:bethanybaywood@outlook.com) or mail to: Bethany Baptist Church 38313 Greenwell Springs Rd., Clinton, LA 70722

Hebron Baptist Church, Denham Springs, LA., is seeking to fill position of **Financial Administrator**  
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Send résumé to [hebron@hebronbc.com](mailto:hebron@hebronbc.com).

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Elizabeth Memorial Baptist Church in Branch, LA is seeking a full-time pastor.  
Please email your résumés to Pastor Search Committee at [brenda0946@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda0946@yahoo.com). For more information, please call Brenda at 337.581.8508.

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## Foundation from page 8

it can be properly supported and maintained.

The next phase is for the software developer to use the conversion to build a new, marketable product that can serve, not only the needs of the LBF, but other religious non-profits as well.

The final item on the agenda was a report on the Foundation's annual audit.

Rebecca Nation, an auditor for Payne, Moore and Her-rington, LLP, told trustees her firm had completed a "clean" audit with no exceptions noted in the accounting practices of the Louisiana Baptist Founda-tion. The Audit Commit-tee, which had met via phone conference with her prior to the meeting, recommended approval of the audit report.

### GENERAL SESSION

Following lunch, the full board heard committee reports, reviewed the performance of the portfolios and the recommenda-tions of the investment con-sultant. There were no action-able items submitted by either committee. The annual audit was approved by the Board as recommended by the Audit Committee.

**The next meeting for Foun-dation Trustees is scheduled for October 24, 2017.**

**To learn more about the work and ministry of the Foun-dation go to [www.LBFinfo.org](http://www.LBFinfo.org).**

### ON THE MOVE

■ **Scottie Gray** is the new pastor at New Hope Baptist Church, Monroe.

■ **John Walker** is the new associate pas-tor/administrator at Brookwood Baptist Church, Shreveport.

■ **Tony, wife Nikki, Campanale** has resigned as pastor at Greenacres Baptist Church, Monroe to become pastor at First Baptist Church, Oak Grove.

■ **Cecil Marr** is the new pastor at North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport.

■ **Danny Taylor** resigned as pastor at Belle Park Baptist Church, Haughton.

■ **Donny Bradley** resigned as pastor at Mansfield Road Baptist Church, Keithville.

■ **Lee, wife Tina, Whitley** is the new pas-tor at Tom Hebert Road Baptist Church, Lake Charles.

■ **Chad Mack** is the new pastor at Crosspoint Church, Galliano.

■ **Nathan Stanford** is the new pastor at First Baptist Church, Grand Isle.

■ **Mike Davis** is the new pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Mathews.

### HOMEcoming

■ First Baptist Church, Hornbeck: **29th An-nual Homecoming**, Aug. 20, 11 a.m. Din-ner on the grounds will follow worship ser-vices. Special Music: **First Hornbeck choir**. Pastor: Jack Bell.

■ Mount Vernon Baptist Church, West Mon-roe: **180th Anniversary**, August 20, Sunday school, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10:15 a.m. A pot luck lunch will follow the service. Speaker: **Wayne Sheppard**. Special Music: **Amber Eppinette of 11th Hour**. Pastor: Randy Burdeaux.

■ Bethel Baptist Church, Colfax: **Home-coming service**, August, 27, 9:45 a.m., Sunday School; 10:45 a.m., worship. There will be a homecoming meal in the Family Life Center after the worship service. Pastor:

Carl Gulde.

### REVIVAL

■ First Baptist Church, Simmesport: **Re-vival**, August 18-20. Revival services will conclude with the Sunday morning service August 20 when the church celebrates its 144th Homecoming. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Special Music: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Ken Austin.

■ New Zion Baptist Church, Oak Grove: **Re-vival**, August 20-23, Sunday, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Monday-Wednesday 7 p.m. Evangelist: **Keith Manuel**. Pastor: Mark Presswood.

■ Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill: Re-vival, August 20-23. Speakers: **Will Hall** (Sunday, 10:30 a.m.) & **Roy Davis** (Sunday, 6 p.m.); **Mark Robinson** (Monday 7 p.m.); **Jeff James** (Tuesday, 7 p.m.) & **Tim Lee** (Wednesday, 7 p.m.). Music: **Mackey Willis Family**. Pastor: Mike Evans.

■ Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles: **The Revival**, August 20-23, Sunday, 9:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 6 p.m. nightly. Guest Speaker: **Jay Lowder will bring a message each night, as well as leading school as-ssemblies during the day**. A meal will be served Monday through Wednesday night and door prizes given away to guests who attend. Children's Communicator: **Jeff "T-Rex" Bankens**. Worship Leader: **Leo Day**. Pastor: Steve James.

■ First Baptist Church, Marion: **Revival**, August 20-24, Evangelist: **Scotty McDow-ell, chalk artist**. Pastor: Bubba Hoggatt.

■ Wallace Baptist Church, Pelican: **Fam-ily Crusade**, August 27-30, 6 p.m. nightly. Evangelists: **2Talk42 Ministries**. Pastor: Jeff Jinks, Pastor

■ Gulf Coast Baptist Association, Morgan City: **Gulf Coast Crusade**, August 27-30, 6:30 p.m. nightly at the Bayou Vista Commu-nity Center. Evangelist: **Bill Britt**. Worship: **Dwight Fitch, Jr., Celebration Church in**

**New Orleans**. Director of Missions: Steven Kelly.

■ Holmesville Baptist Church, Downs-ville: **Revival**, August 27-30, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. & 5 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Evangelist: **Lyndon Longoria**. Special Mu-sic: **Kerry Longoria**. Pastor: Jerry Whitman.

■ Sweetwater Baptist Church, Quitman: **Revival**, August 27-30, Evangelist: **Bob Pitman**. Pastor: Wilton Wall.

### LAGNIAPPE

■ Foster Road Baptist Church, Baton Rouge: **Friday Night Worship**, August 18, 25. Fel-lowship meal at 6 p.m. and worship service at 7 p.m. Speakers: **Oren Conner, First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge** (August 18); Praise and Worship (August 25). Pastor: Michael Morris.

■ First Baptist Church, Golden Meadow: **French Rally**, August 18, 5 p.m. meal; 6 p.m. Worship. Pastor: Matthew Chouest.

■ First Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Set Free Tour with Big Daddy Weave along with We Are Messengers and Micah Ty-ler**, August 17, 7-10 p.m. Cost: \$15 - \$50. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.

■ First Baptist Church, Keithville: **Southern Jubilee Gospel Singing Convention**, Au-gust 18-19, 6 p.m. on August 18 and 5 p.m. on August 19. Worship: **Heaven's Echoes, Made By Mercy, The Kinsmen, Broken Vessels, and N Him**. Emcee: **Mike Good-win**. Cost: Free admission but a love offer-ing will be taken. For more information, call 318.925.9476 (Church) or Judy Biggers at 501.977.6525. Pastor: Mike Stowell.

■ Amite Baptist Church, Denham Springs: **The Forge**, August 18-19. For students in the sixth - 12th grades. Speaker: **Eddie Briery**. Worship: **Men Among Mountains**. Cost: \$20 per students (includes meals Saturday & t-shirts. Adults admitted free. If adults want a t-shirt the cost is \$5. For questions or more information, call Johnny

Morgan 225.278.4772 or email him at [johnny@liveoakbaptists.org](mailto:johnny@liveoakbaptists.org); or Kuke Hand at 225.953.0434 or email him at [coolhand-lukeds@yahoo.com](mailto:coolhand-lukeds@yahoo.com).

■ Bethany Baptist Church, Newellton: **Ben Waites in concert**, August 20, 11:00 a.m. Pastor: John Holdiness.

■ Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreve-port: **The Browders - Southern Gospel Group in concert**, August 20, 6 p.m. Cost: Free, a love offering will be taken. Pastor: Collin Wimberly.

■ Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: **Legacy Five in concert**, August 25, 7 p.m. Pastor: Rubin Weaver.

■ North Shreve Baptist Church, Shreveport: **"A Taste of Louisiana"**, August 26, 5- 8 p.m. Cost: \$10.00 (Adults to 12 years of age) and \$6 (children 11 years of age and under). We will have Jambalaya, Etouffee, Gumbo, Fried Catfish, fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw, Red Beans and Rice, Bread Pudding, Pralines and lots more. Come out and enjoy some great Louisiana Cuisine. All proceeds will go toward our building fund. Pastor: Cecil Marr.

■ First Baptist Church, Bossier City: **Honor our Heroes Sunday**, August 27, 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Speakers: **Lt. Col. Oliver North (retired)** and **Dallas Police Chief David Brown (retired)**. Worship: **Taylor Rae**. Pastor: Brad Jurkovich.

■ First Baptist Church, West Monroe: **Im-pact**, August 28-30, 6 p.m. Speaker: **Wade Morris**. Worship: **Shane Longoria**. Cost: \$2 at the door each night. This area-wide con-ference is for students in the sixth through 12th grade gathering to worship and hear from God. This event marks the beginning of the school year and our area churches' in-tention to reach the next generation. Pastor: James Doughty.

■ Social Springs Baptist Church, Ringgold: **"Whosoever Will" Men's Conference**, September 2, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Cost: No charge -- open to all adult men. Pastor: James Hester.

## Scripture Crypto

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the ScriptureCrypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

ybg nkt fzxufuzxt u ikzp irxe grx pkzemen zkjx

grx excg tuh, uet mg jpkgx grx nkbzt, grug mg

imgrxzxt.

wkeur skbz:jxlxe

Clues:  
B = U; T = D

Answer to August 3 Scripture Crypto:  
First Thessalonians two: three

## Louisiana Baptist

FOUNDATION



**Rose Mary Martin** was selected to direct the \$1500 gift for the 2nd quarter of 2017. She chose her church, **Beulah Baptist** in Mansfield, to be the recipient and they intend to use it for benevolence in their community.

Participate in Give A Gift by completing the form below or by completing the online submission at [www.BaptistMessage.com/give-a-gift](http://www.BaptistMessage.com/give-a-gift). If your submission is selected (at random), \$1,500 will be sent to the Baptist church or ministry of your choice.

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c/o Louisiana Baptist Foundation

P.O. Box 311

Alexandria, LA 71309

Or Go to:

[www.baptistmessage.com/give\\_a\\_gift](http://www.baptistmessage.com/give_a_gift)

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

eMail \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

For Give A Gift information, rules and a link to on-line submission, go to: [www.baptistmessage.com/give-a-gift/](http://www.baptistmessage.com/give-a-gift/)



# International missions come to Louisiana Baptists via Camp USA

BY BRIAN BLACKWELL  
Message Staff Writer

**TIOGA/PONCHATOULA** – For three jam-packed, fun-filled weeks, 40 Korean children experienced a mixture of Louisiana hospitality, culture and outdoor fun during the 12th annual Camp USA, making for a memorable time for most.

However, the biggest takeaway for 15 of these kids was their life-altering decision to follow Jesus Christ.

“Every year we have some decisions from the Korean children and it blesses my heart, whether we have a few or many,” said Tim Hisaw, pastor of Tioga First Baptist Church. “Seeing so many children come to Christ is one of the blessings we get to experience with Camp USA. Clearly, the camp fulfills the Great Commission and allows our church members to participate in an international mission trip without leaving their own backyard.”

A partnership of REACH Missions and the Korean Baptist Church Development Board, the camp involved First Baptist Church in Ponchatoula and more than 20 churches in Big Creek, Central and North Rapides associations.

“Vacation Bible School has traditionally been a great evangelistic outreach in our churches, and the one here exposes the Koreans to the Gospel,” said Tim Hisaw, pastor of Tioga First Baptist Church. “We live in a connected world, but much of the connections are superficial. Camp USA makes relationships personal – with solid connections to families on the other side of the world.”

During their first week, the children took part in Vacation Bible School at Tioga First Baptist Church while also participating in activities at other area churches.

After their time in Central Louisiana, the campers spent the remainder of their visit to the state in the Ponchatoula area.

While there, the children practiced with American counterparts in a music day camp at First Baptist Church of Ponchatoula and took day trips to a retreat center in Ponchatoula, Camp Living Waters in Loranger, and the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans.

Their final activity there was a musical performance at First Baptist Ponchatoula as a combined choir with the First Baptist Ponchatoula children’s choir.

“It’s always good to see the interaction between the Korean and American children,” said David Cranford, pastor of First Baptist Ponchatoula. “To see this come together is miraculous.”

“What it does is increase people’s awareness of other cultures,” continued Cranford, who has been involved with Camp USA since its inception. “We live in a very connected world but this makes it personal. American families come in contact with someone who lives 7,000 miles away. It makes Korean children realize there are other cultures out there and it forms a heartstring in people’s hearts for other cultures because it makes it personal.”

## THANKFUL VISITORS

For many of the South Korean children, the motivation for attending Camp USA is the opportunity to become immersed in the culture of Louisiana and brush up on speaking the English language among Americans.

Stella An enjoyed spending time with her host family.

“They care so much and take care of us,” said the third-year camp participant. “When I know this camp is coming up, it gets



Brian Blackwell photo

More than 40 South Korean children participated in Camp USA during the final three weeks of July at Tioga and Ponchatoula. Fifteen of them made decisions for Christ.

me excited because I know I will stay with a host home. They become like another family and treat me like another member of them.”

First-year participant Jik-yung Park said staying with a host home family was a highlight for him as well.

“They treat us very well,” Park said. “Camp USA gives me a chance to come and meet God. I hope I get to come back again and experience America next year.”

William Lee, a staff member with the KBCDB, said that throughout the two weeks in Louisiana, he could sense God’s love in the relationships that formed.

“That love is very important

to the children,” Lee said. “It is really hard to say goodbye. Most of the church members and us are crying and weeping. They have touched my heart.”

“This makes the fellowship and the future of the Korean and Louisiana Baptists united,” he continued. “I want to continue this program and for us to have a continued relationship.”

**Mission opportunities with South Korea are still possible this year, with a trip to that country planned for Oct. 18-31. There is an application deadline of Sept. 1. For more information, contact David Cranford at 985.386.3075, or 985.662.1616, or coordinator@reachmissions.com.**

## BHA Golf Classic & Sporting Clay Shoot

*Hosted by RoyOMartin*

### 13th Annual Brenda Hall Abney Golf Classic

**Monday, September 25**

7:30 AM and 1:00 PM

Crown Colony Golf Course  
Lufkin, Texas

### Sporting Clay Shoot

**Saturday, September 23**

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Rapides Parish Sheriff’s Office Shooting Range  
Alexandria, Louisiana

***All Proceeds Benefiting HomePlace (Homeless Children & Moms)***



For more info. visit [royomartin.com](http://royomartin.com) or contact Amanda at 318-483-3822